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PATENT APPLICATION  
Attorney Docket Number 069558.0102

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Maurice Karras, et al.  
Serial No. : 09/923559  
Filing Date : August 7, 2001  
Title : Process and Apparatus for Scrubbing Sulfur  
Dioxide from Flue Gas and Conversion to Fertilizer  
Group Art Unit : To be assigned  
Examiner : To be assigned

Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

I hereby certify that a Declaration In Support Of Petition to Make Special - Accelerated Examination is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 and is addressed with adequate postage to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 29, 2001 .

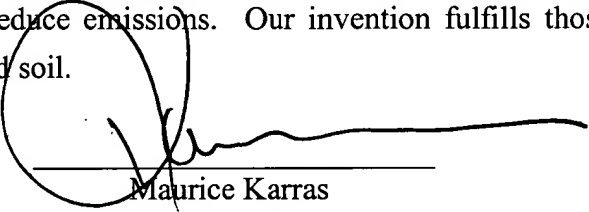


**DECLARATION OF MAURICE KARRAS IN SUPPORT OF  
PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c)**

I, Maurice Karras, joint inventor and Applicant in the above-referenced United States Patent Application, hereby declare under penalty of perjury subject to 28 U.S.C. §1746 that this application is entitled to special status in the processing of the instant Application because it contributes to the maintenance of the basic life sustaining elements, specifically air, water and soil.

The invention of the present application is drawn to a multistage scrubber and thiosulfate conversion reactor that removes a portion of the sulfur dioxide from flue gas and converts the removed sulfur dioxide into thiosulfate suitable for use as fertilizer. Utility and industrial plants, as part of their normal operation, produce undesirable combustion products such as sulfur dioxide. Sulfur dioxide is hazardous to the environment, may be viewed by the plant's neighbors as unpleasant or even noxious, and

is highly regulated by local and national environmental agencies. Various methods have been used by utility and industrial plant owners to control the emissions of sulfur dioxide from their facilities. While these other methods have been used to control these sulfur dioxide emissions, these other methods create other wastes and often result in opaque air emissions. These wastes must be disposed of, and are often landfilled and may contaminate both soil and groundwater. There is a need for an efficient means of removing sulfur dioxide from flue gas and conversion of the resulting compounds into an industrially useful product. The removal process should further not create other wastes, or create an opacity problem. The process of creating the industrially useful product should be closed to the atmosphere to reduce emissions. Our invention fulfills those needs, thereby protecting the air, water and soil.



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Maurice Karras

August 28, 2001  
Date